The South 40

Heat, dry weather have hurt early corn

By JAMES A. SMITH
Extension Agent

The heat and dry weather has obviously hurt early corn. Heat has been more troublesome than the drought, at the six inch level there was adequate moisture last week.

We've had more than 20 days of temperature over 90°.

Some corn producers have talked about converting drought striken corn to silage or cutting, wilting and baling in large bales. Both of these methods of preservation are worth considering, but don't overlook the possibility of nitrate poisoning. As crops reach normal maturity they utilize the nitrogen that has been applied.

Nitrates are not destroyed by ensiling or storing as hay, therefore, a word of caution is appropriate.

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There's been wide fluctuation in the commodities markets in recent days. Last Friday soybeans were well over $7.00. Cattle and hog prices continue to be points of real concern. It's worth your time watching these markets.

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As estimated, 22,500 house fires each year are associated with metal, factory-built chimneys connected to wood and coal burning stoves. The consumer Product Safety Commission urgently warns consumers to be aware of the potential fire hazard associated with these chimneys.

* * *

There are some fields of soybeans that need to be treated with an appropriate herbicide if yields are to be acceptable. There's still time to salvage many of these fields. Some with dogbane, johnsongrass, milkweed and other tall weeds can be treated with a wick applicator. The wick applicator using Roundup is fairly fast and economical. Other fields need an over-the-top application of a different herbicide.

The arsenal of available herbicides is quite vast and needs to be understood and utilized.

* * *

Many students of chemistry often wonder whether they ever find a practical application. Last week I found a very practical application. A grower had inadvertantly applied a field grade fertilizer to tobacco. The potassium source was murate of potash rather than sulphate of potash. This meant a higher chlorine level than desirable. We finally discovered a material called gypsom or land plaster which is actually calcium sulphate. It was determined that when 400-500 pounds is applied as a side dressing, the calcium links up with the chlorine and forms calcium chloride which is not available to the plant. This sounds simple, but it translates into a multi-thousand dollar savings for this grower.

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Wasps are very useful in the garden -they destroy many harmful vegetable insects.

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We observed several cases of bacterial will in cucumbers. The control is to keep the cucumber beetle under control-particularly in the early stages.

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Several weeks ago I assisted with the "dry-run" of the Franklin County Farm Management Tour. For lunch we were served UHT milk. UHT means ultra-high temperature-milk heated from 280 to 300 degrees for four to 20 seconds. The unrefrigerated shelf life is four months.

There are no preservatives in the package and it is a fresh product. Once the package is opened, it must be refrigerated. The "sip-ups", pint container, comes in a variety of flavors.

It is my understanding that UHT milk is locally available in supermarkets. Try it--it has a place.

JOSEPH ROBERTSON (left) and James Fitch (right) completed requirements for a Tractor Operators Certificate.

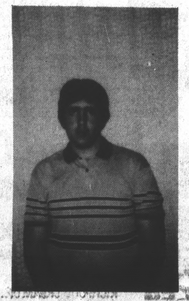
For certification

Local FFA members complete tractor class

Ten Appomattox F.F.A. members recently completed the necessary requirements to earn a Tractor Operators Certificate. The students' training consisted of ten hours of class instruction and additional training on a farm tractor. Following the training, each student had to pass a written examination and correctly operate a tractor through a specified course, pulling and backing a two-wheel trailer.

The course was conducted by Agricultural Instructors at ACHS and AMS and was offered to students who would be operating tractors on their home farms or for their employers at their place of work. The following students successfully completed the class:

Rusty Alvis, Joe Arrighi, Ricky Davis, James Fitch, Bryan Fulcher, Jim Kennon, Keith Martin, Wayne Martin, Joseph Robertson, Troy Totty.



Richard Steadman

Steadman honored

Local youth, Richard Steadman of Appomattox has been selected by VCFC to attend the National Institute on Cooperative Education at The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio. The Institute, which will be held August 1-4, is an annual meeting coordinated by the American Institute of Cooperation. It attracts nearly 2,000 people from across the nation.

Richard was selected along with 20 other youth from the state of Virginia to participate in the Institute. The students were selected on the basis of their achievement, leadership and communications skills as well as their interest in cooperative enterprise. In all, approximately 500 youth between 14 and 20 years of age will attend.

At the Institute Richard and other Youth Scholars will study how the business is organized, basic cooperative principles, how agricultural cooperatives are organized, and ways to use cooperatives. Career opportunities in cooperatives will also be explored.

In addition to the educational session, the Youth Scholars will participate in various social, recreational and leadership activities.

Other programs at the Institute include sessions for young farmers, cooperative employees, vocational agriculture teachers, county extension agents, land-grant university staff and cooperative members.

The American Institute of Cooperation is the national organization for agricultural cooperatives with 1,000 members nationwide.

ASCS Today

Plan designed to aid fire-cured growers

By TOM CONRAD

Fire Cured Tobacco growers should be able to book tobacco this year with less effort if they take advantage of the plan being offered by the Virignia Dark Fired Tobacco Growers Marketing Association.

Growers may fill out an "AID To Booking" form at the county ASCS office. The form will show the farmer's planted acreage, his three year yield and the market of his preference. Upon signing the form, it will be mailed to the association's main office, Farmville, Va. or to M. E. Inge, Jr., Blackstone, Va.

Later in the year when marketing dates have been set and market poundage assigned by the marketing committee the grower will receive a notice from his warehouseman offering him selling time before Christmas.

The amount of space offered will be determined by the farmer's individual yield and the total amount of sales opportunity designated before Christmas. If the market has opportunity to sell 60 percent of the estimated crop before Christmas (as was the case last year) then the grower will be offered the opportunity to sell 60 percent of his crop before Christmas. Large amounts of tobacco on one farm will be broken down into several sales spread over several weeks.

Theoretically under this plan everyone should have a chance to sell a portion of their tobacco before Christmas. Difficulty could arise if too many growers choose to sell on one certain market since the poundage alloted each market is based on a three year moving sales history. Warehouses plan to offer space on the basis of the date the "Aid" form is signed. If space at one warehouse is exhausted then the grower will be offered-space at another warehouse. Growers must call or write accepting this space by the date stated on the card. If the sales offered does not suit the grower then he can discuss this with the warehouse manager and the two can work out any changes.

Growers not wishing to take advantage of this plan will be booked in the usual manner beginning approximately two weeks before the market opening in the case of Lynchburg and Farmville and October 1 in the case of Blackstone. Those waiting until then to go to the warehouse or call to reserve space will have to take what is left. Lynchburg and Farmville will book them on a 200 pounds per acre per week basis.

Any pre-Christmas space left one week before the market opens will be offered on an unlimited basis in order to fill up the poundage quota for each day.

Forms are at the ASCS office and we assist in preparing them. Al growers are urged to take advantage of this new method and avoid standing in line at the warehouse or attempting to get a telephone call through.

D.E. club organizes alumni

The Appomattox County High School Distributive Education Club is in the process of organizing an Alumni Division. Membership in the Alumni Division is available to any former Appomattox County High School DECA member.

With an outstanding history which has brought an opportunity for thousands of young Americans who hae been fortunate enough to become DECA members, the Distributive Education Clubs of America is one of the most dynamic student organizations. For this reason, more and more graduating DE students and past DECA members are becoming involved with the Alumni Division of DECA, to ensure tomorrow's DECA members even greater opportunities for success than students have today.

Alumni DECA provides a means by which Distritutive Education students can maintain association with DECA and allows its members to encourage support for DECA programs of student activity on a local, state, and/or national level.

If anyone is interested in joining Appomattox County High School's Alumni DECA Division, please contact the Distributive Education Coordinator, Mr. John McHale, at the high school for more information.

Floyd Williams, Bill Hunter and Mary Alma Hudson (Left to right)

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Loretta Layne and Jim Pugh (Left to right)

Registration site chosen

Voter registration for qualified Appomattox County citizens will be conducted today, (Thursday) from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the basement of the Peaceful Grove Baptist Church recreation center in Stonewall.

This, and other voter registration sites have been selected for the convenience of persons unable to register during the regular days and hours the county registrar's office is open.

Free transportation will be provided for those who cannot otherwise get to the site. Call 352-2284 before Thursday for information on transportation.

The auxiliary registration sites are open to all residents of Appomattox County, and anyone who is not registered to vote is encouraged to visit one of the sites and register to vote.

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JUL